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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

February 8 - February 15, 1990

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

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## **USDA DECLARES WEST VIRGINIA FREE OF SWINE BRUCELLOSIS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state of West Virginia joined in a ceremony yesterday to declare the state free of swine brucellosis, making this the 34th state so designated.

Bill Buisch, a regional director for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, joined Cleve Benedict, State Commissioner of Agriculture, in a ceremony at the State Capitol in Charleston. Buisch represented James W. Glosser, administrator of APHIS, who sent congratulations to the state on its achievement.

"West Virginia has worked hard to achieve this goal," Glosser said. "Officials tested more than 6,000 sows in over 300 herds in the past year and found no infection. As a result, swine producers in West Virginia now no longer are required to test breeding stock before movement to other states."

Brucellosis is an infectious bacterial disease that causes pregnant sows to abort or give birth to weak piglets. It is caused by *Brucella suis*, a bacterium that can be transmitted from swine to people, generally those who handle infected live animals or carcasses.

As a result of a cooperative eradication campaign, 34 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been validated as free of swine brucellosis.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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## **USDA HELPS MAKE EXTRA RAILROAD CARS AVAILABLE TO MEET SHORTAGE**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—Five hundred covered-hopper railroad cars designed for transporting grain have been leased by the Soo Line Railroad from the Canadian Pacific Railroad to meet a severe U.S. hopper car shortage that has plagued grain shippers in the Midwest.



The Soo Line will operate the cars under the six-month lease, according to Martin “Buzz” Fitzpatrick Jr., administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Transportation. The cars will add a carrying capacity of approximately 16.8 million bushels of grain, he said.

“We became concerned after receiving complaints from grain producers who were unable to secure an adequate supply of cars,” Fitzpatrick said. “So we joined the Soo Line in petitioning the U.S. Customs Service to allow the company to bring in Canadian cars duty free. I’m pleased to say the waiver was granted. Without it, the cost of using the Canadian cars would have been raised to a prohibitive level.”

Fitzpatrick said the cars are currently being transferred to the Soo line at a border crossing near Noyes, Minn.

Amichai Heppner (202) 436-5222

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## USDA PROTECTS EIGHT NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of eight new varieties of seed-reproduced plants, including bean, cowpea, tall fescue, ryegrass, soybean, and tomato.

Kenneth H. Evans, with USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of breeders’ records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform, and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

—the B169 variety of bean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

—the Mississippi Pinkeye variety of cowpea, developed by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi State, Miss.;

—the Martin variety of tall fescue, developed by the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.;

—the Mozark variety of tall fescue, developed by the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.;

—the Pebble Beach variety of ryegrass, developed by Pure-Seed Testing Inc., Hubbard, Ore.;

—the Saturn variety of ryegrass, developed by Pure-Seed Testing Inc., Hubbard, Ore.;

—the Camp variety of soybean, developed by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.; and

—the DNAP-17 variety of tomato, developed by the DNA Plant Technology Corp., Cinnaminson, N.J.

The certificates of protection for the Mississippi Pinkeye cowpea variety and the Camp soybean variety are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The plant variety protection program is administered by AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9, through midnight Thursday, Feb. 15.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

The estimated cost associated with transporting U.S. cotton to northern Europe has been revised, increasing from 13.10 to 13.21 cents per pound. The average U.S. spot market location adjustment used to calculate today’s announced AWP reflects the revision.

Based on data for the week ending Feb. 8, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price .....	75.86
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	12.86
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	2.20
Average U.S. location .....	0.39
Sum of Adjustments .....	<u>-15.45</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	60.31 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price .....	75.76
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-71.82</u>
	3.94
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....	<u>-4.75</u>
	-0.81
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Feb 15.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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**CHINA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT UNDER EXPORT  
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 1 million metric tons of U.S. wheat to China under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Export Enhancement Program.

Today’s 1-million-metric-ton allocation, added to the 1,050 metric tons remaining under previous allocations, brings the amount of wheat currently available to China under the EEP to 1,001,050 metric tons.



Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in China at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Chinese market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information, call William Hawkins, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP, call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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## **USDA AGAIN WARNS THE PUBLIC AGAINST PURCHASING SMUGGLED BIRDS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is repeating a warning to the public and commercial buyers of exotic birds to make sure they do not purchase smuggled birds.

According to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, every year from January through early spring, hundreds of exotic birds enter the country illegally after the winter breeding season. The most popular birds are the hookbilled variety, such as the yellow-naped Amazon. Often they are sold by street vendors.

“These smuggled birds often carry such diseases as exotic Newcastle without showing symptoms,” said Glosser. “Since 1974, there has been an outbreak of this disease in pet birds nearly every year, although it has not spread to commercial poultry flocks. The exotic Newcastle virus is deadly to all birds and would be a major problem for the poultry industry.”

Glosser said the 1971-74 epidemic of exotic Newcastle disease in southern California cost taxpayers \$56 million to eradicate. An estimated 12 million birds, mostly laying hens, either died or were destroyed. If exotic Newcastle became established in the United States, it could cost

the poultry industry some \$230 million a year and increase the cost of eggs and poultry to consumers.

“Pet dealers are putting their businesses at risk when they buy smuggled birds,” said Glosser. “Anyone who buys exotic birds in the United States should make certain they purchase them from legitimate sources. They should be sure the bird is wearing a circular, stainless-steel, USDA-approved leg band. The band is engraved with three letters and three numbers.”

Glosser said there were at least two outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease in pet birds during 1989 and at least six outbreaks in pet birds in 1988 that were probably smuggled from Mexico or other nations in Central or South America.

“Many endangered species of birds are not allowed entry into the country, but some can comply with certain regulations,” said Glosser. “The birds must be declared to federal inspectors, be accompanied by appropriate permits and enter after a minimum 30-day quarantine at one of six USDA-operated facilities. APHIS tests the birds during the quarantine to make sure they are free of exotic Newcastle and other communicable diseases of poultry.”

According to Glosser, smuggled birds also may cause minor health problems for people who handle them. If birds are carrying the Newcastle virus, people who come in contact with them may develop eye inflammations. Birds with psitticosis, another infectious disease, can transmit mild flulike symptoms to humans. The latter risk is somewhat higher for infants and the elderly.

Glosser said anyone planning to purchase a bird while abroad should learn about the strict rules governing its importation, especially the requirement for a 30-day quarantine. The public can obtain a free pamphlet by writing: “Pet Bird Pamphlet,” USDA-APHIS, Room G-110, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Dealers and hobbyists may write the same address for a free fact sheet on how to avoid the purchase of smuggled birds.

Pat El-Hinnawy (301) 436-7255

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## USDA PROPOSES IMPORTING HONEY BEES AND HONEY BEE SEMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND

Washington, Feb. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed relaxing certain import restrictions on honey bees and honey bee semen from New Zealand.

“Our regulations are designed to protect U.S. beekeeping from foreign honey bee pests and diseases,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “New Zealand is free of, and has adequate defenses against, honey bee diseases and parasites, and undesirable species of honey bees, so our import restrictions can now be removed.”

USDA has proposed exempting New Zealand from the regulations based on reviews of that country’s bee enforcement program and scientific literature, results of New Zealand’s ongoing sampling program, and an exchange of information on honey bee-related issues between USDA and New Zealand.

However, to ensure that the health of the exported honey bees and semen is not compromised while they are in transit, we would allow only nonstop shipments, Glosser said. APHIS also would require that these shipments be certified by the New Zealand Department of Agriculture as originating in that country.

Due to the reversal of seasons in the Southern Hemisphere, honey bees and honey bee semen imported into the United States would arrive between late October and April during the U.S. beekeeping off-season.

This proposed rule appears in the Feb. 6 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Feb. 21. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket No. 89-117 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Janna Evans (301) 436-7251

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## **USDA PROPOSES ADDING IMPORT CENTER AT FAIRBANKS, ALASKA**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed adding a port of entry at Fairbanks, Alaska, for importing animal products that do not require special holding or quarantine inspection.

“The inspection facilities and personnel are available in Fairbanks. Many animal products coming from the Orient transit through Alaska, and a port in Fairbanks may prove more convenient than Anchorage, currently the only animal import site in Alaska,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Products that could enter through the Fairbanks port would include animal semen, test specimens, hatching eggs and day-old chicks. The Fairbanks facility, as a limited port, is not equipped for special restraint or holding, and, therefore, could not be a port of entry for large animals. Nor could animals or animal products enter at Fairbanks if they required quarantining, due to diseases in the country of origin that are not present in the United States.

This proposal was published in the Federal Register on Feb. 6. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before April 7. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket number 89-177 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Pat El-Hinnawy (301) 436-7253

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## **TEN MORE STATES JOIN PSEUDORABIES FIGHT**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—Ten additional states (Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio and West Virginia) have joined the fight against pseudorabies, a costly disease of swine and other livestock, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.



According to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, this brings to 17 the number of states in the five-stage, state-federal-industry pseudorabies eradication program. "Stage I of the program is preparation," he said. "Stage II is control; stage III is mandatory herd clean-up; and stage IV is surveillance to make sure no infection is present. A state can be declared 'pseudorabies-free' if it goes for a year in stage IV without finding an infected swine herd."

California and Florida join Arizona, Missouri and Texas in stage I; Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan and New Mexico move to stage II with Georgia and Illinois; and Alabama, Ohio and West Virginia go to stage III with Arkansas and Wisconsin.

"Applications from Maine, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Virginia and Wyoming are currently being reviewed by APHIS and the National Pseudorabies Control Board, an industry organization," Glosser said. "By October 1990, all states should be in the program. The goal is to eradicate the disease in swine by the year 2000."

Pseudorabies is a contagious livestock disease that is most prevalent in swine. Although it often causes death in newborn pigs, older hogs may survive the infection and remain carriers of the virus for life. Stress or other conditions may trigger the virus from its latent state in these carrier animals. Pseudorabies, sometimes called Aujeszky's disease or "mad itch," also affects cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and other animals. In these species, it almost always causes death. Pseudorabies does not affect humans.

Glosser pointed out that a number of new tools are being considered for use in the campaign to eradicate pseudorabies, including genetically engineered vaccines that allow tests to differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals. "In past programs against other diseases, use of vaccines sometimes masked the disease and made it difficult to detect infection," he said. "But the genetically engineered vaccine will let us use vaccination as a valuable weapon in helping wipe out this disease."

Glosser said the pseudorabies eradication effort is unique in that the swine industry took the lead in developing standards for the eradication program. In essence, pork producers got together and said, "This is what we have to do to get rid of this disease," he said.

Larry Mark (202) 447-397

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## **USDA DONATES FEED GRAINS TO TUNISIA**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has donated 70,000 metric tons of U.S. sorghum and 35,000 metric tons of U.S. corn to Tunisia, according to F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$11 million donation will be sold by the government of Tunisia to local feed millers and farmers for livestock feed, Dickerson said. The proceeds will go to assist poor farmers who have suffered from two years of severe drought.

“While the United States has traditionally supplied corn to Tunisia, this is only the second year that we have provided sorghum,” Dickerson said. “The sorghum donation will help not only the people of Tunisia, but may help develop a potential market for U.S. sorghum producers as well.”

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.

Lynn Goldsbrough (202) 382-9442

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## **USDA PROPOSES FEE INCREASE FOR GRADING IMPORTED TOBACCO**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to increase the fee for grading imported tobacco from 40 to 45 cents per hundred pounds.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposed increase of five cents per hundred pounds would cover increases since October 1989 in salaries, personnel benefits and administrative costs. The salary and benefits increases are congressionally mandated.

Except for oriental and cigar leaf, all imported tobacco must be graded, and tobacco importers pay fees for the grading service, Haley said. Standards used in grading imported and domestic tobaccos are the same, he said. Authority for the program rests in the Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983. AMS administers the program.



Notice of the proposed is published as a proposed rule in today's Federal Register. Comments, received no later than Mar. 12, may be sent to the Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 502 Annex, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Copies of the proposed rule and additional information are available from the director of the division, telephone (202) 447-2567.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES EIGHT WATER QUALITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will establish water quality demonstration projects in eight states this year to show new ways to minimize the effects of agricultural nutrients and pesticides on water quality, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today.

“Our goal is to demonstrate cost-effective agricultural practices that can be used and shared by farmers, the agribusiness community, and federal, state and local policy makers,” Yeutter said. “We want to accelerate the adoption of water quality technology that’s been developed but hasn’t yet achieved widespread recognition.

“This is part of USDA’s accelerated water quality effort for the 1990s. Over the next five years, we plan to have 16 more demonstration projects. We expect to achieve major accomplishments in the areas of water quality improvement and protection with these efforts. Our Working Group on Water Quality will closely monitor the performance of the demonstration projects.”

USDA’s Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service will provide joint leadership for the on-farm demonstration projects. Five USDA agencies have committed \$3.3 million to the projects in 1990:

—Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service—\$900,000 under the Agricultural Conservation Program in cost-share assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers who install the demonstration practices;

—Economic Research Service—\$150,000 in staff support to evaluate the economic effects of the program and practices to reduce chemical use in production agriculture;

—Extension Service—\$1 million for education and information regarding installation procedures and effects;

—Forest Service—\$100,000 to install improved forest management practices; and

—Soil Conservation Service—\$1.1 million in technical assistance for selecting and installing the demonstration conservation practices.

In addition, USDA'S Agricultural Research Service and Cooperative State Research Service are providing research assistance to support the development and application of new technology to meet water quality needs.

The projects will also demonstrate farmers' willingness to adopt newly developed production practices and systems that more effectively manage nutrients and pesticides. The eight projects are:

California—Sacramento Valley Demonstration Project (Butte, Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties). Demonstrate the economic and environmental feasibility of pesticide management practices that reduce pesticide residue levels in irrigation return flow water.

Florida—Lake Manatee Watershed Demonstration Project (Manatee County). Demonstrate the use of profitable irrigation and crop management systems, based on computer decision models, for the reduction of nutrient and pesticide loadings to surface and groundwater.

Maryland—Monocacy River Watershed Demonstration Project (Carroll, Frederick and Montgomery counties). Focus on economically feasible and environmentally effective methods for farmers to reduce the application of fertilizers and properly manage animal wastes, thus reducing the potential to pollute surface and groundwater.

Minnesota—Anoka Sand Plain Demonstration Project (Anoka, Benton, Chisago, Hennepin, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington and Wright counties). Demonstrate cost-effective nutrient and crop management systems that reduce loadings of nitrates and pesticides in a groundwater recharge area.

Nebraska—Mid-Nebraska Water Quality Demonstration Project (Adams, Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Kearney, Polk, Seward, York and Webster counties). Demonstrate on irrigated cropland the integrated use of costeffective nitrogen, irrigation, and pest management to reduce chemical inputs, production costs and groundwater contamination.



North Carolina—Herrings Marsh Run Demonstration Project (northwestern Duplin County). Demonstrate crop and nutrient management systems that maintain farm profitability and reduce pesticide and nutrient loadings to both ground and surface waters in areas with shallow groundwater tables.

Texas—Seco Creek Demonstration Project (Bandera, Medina and Uvalde counties). Demonstrate cost-effective vegetative management systems to increase water yield and reduce pesticide and nitrogen leaching in a groundwater recharge area.

Wisconsin—East River Watershed Demonstration Project (Brown County). Demonstrate crop management systems that reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and pesticides required to produce competitive crops, thus enhancing farmers' net income and reducing the loading of nutrients and pesticides to surface and groundwater.

Diana Morse (202) 447-4772

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR MEXICO**

WASHINGTON, February 9—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 120,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to Mexico during the 1989-90 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## **YEUTTER APPOINTS NEW HAMPSHIRE CITIZENS TO WILDCAT RIVER ADVISORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has appointed seven New Hampshire residents to serve on the Wildcat River Advisory Commission.

The Wildcat River, about half of which is located in the White Mountain National Forest, was added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by legislation in 1988. The legislation provided for a commission to assist the secretary and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service with administering system provisions in designated segments of the Wildcat River and its tributaries in New Hampshire.

The Wildcat River Advisory Commission will consist of seven members nominated by the town of Jackson, N.H., the Jackson Conservation Commission, the state of New Hampshire and the secretary of agriculture. The newly appointed commission members are Frank Difruscio, David O. Moreton, John B. Pepper, and George J. Bordash, all of Jackson; Roger F. French, Hanover; Stephen D. Blackmer, Concord; and Robert M. Walker, Conway. Walker, District Ranger on Saco District of the White Mountain National Forest, is the secretary's representative on the commission.

The designated segment of the river is 14.5 miles long and flows through Jackson. Seven miles of the river are in the national forest.

Gordon Meyer (202) 447-3760

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.76 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.02 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.91 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.88 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.03 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.62 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.42 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Feb. 20, at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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## **NEW YORK EGG PRODUCTS PROCESSOR AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that Goldenarea Egg Corporation, Woodridge, N.Y., signed a consent decision settling a USDA egg products inspection complaint against the company.

A consent decision and order issued Jan. 25 by a USDA administrative law judge states that USDA is withdrawing mandatory federal egg products inspection service from the plant for one year, but holds the penalty in abeyance unless the firm violates the Egg Products Inspection Act during the next two years.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said "during this two-year period, USDA will continue to monitor closely the egg products processing activities of Goldenarea Egg Corporation. If the firm is found to violate the act in this period, USDA will withdraw egg products inspection services as the consent decree provides."

USDA's complaint, issued June 6, 1989, alleged that Goldenarea Egg Corporation had violated the Egg Products Inspection Act by mislabeling egg products, selling and transporting this mislabeled egg product in commerce, and failing to maintain proper records of these transactions. The company neither admitted nor denied the charges, but has agreed to the judge's consent decision and order.

The Egg Products Inspection Act requires continuous USDA inspection of all egg products plants. AMS administers the act to ensure that consumers get only wholesome, unadulterated, properly labeled, and



packaged eggs and egg products. No egg products processor may operate without this inspection service provided by USDA.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

## FLOATING ROOTS GROW WITHOUT PLANTS, HELP SCIENTISTS STUDY FRIENDLY FUNGI

WASHINGTON—Nearly every schoolchild has at one time plopped a carrot top in a jar of water and watched shoots and roots emerge. But at a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory, carrot roots are thriving in beakers despite being separated from the carrot.

It's part of research to unlock the secrets of natural soil fungi that help many kinds of plants grow, according to Sui-Sheng (Sylvia) T. Hua of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The payoff, 5 to 10 years away, would be a cheaper way to mass-produce fungi as farmers' and nursery operators' underground allies.

Hua painstakingly extracted the experimental roots from carrot slices that she had earlier exposed to a bacterium, *Agrobacterium rhizogenes*, to stimulate root formation. The free-floating roots flourish in a bath of nutrients at the ARS Western Regional Research Center in Albany, Calif., according to Hua, a plant physiologist.

She hopes her experiments will help her solve the puzzle of how to coax the fungi to multiply in test tubes—without roots. That would be a big step towards streamlined commercial production.

In crop fields, the fungi colonize plant roots when threadlike filaments called hyphae sprout from fungal spores. The filaments, like miniature pipelines, deliver nutrients and water to roots, reducing farmers' fertilizer costs and helping the crop withstand drought.

Farmers and nursery operators can buy the microorganisms—called endomycorrhizal fungi—to augment the soil's natural populations. But fungi marketed by industrial labs are grown on intact plant roots in soil, adding to costs.

Hua estimates it may take 5 to 10 years before hardy, healthy, affordable endomycorrhizal fungi can be produced without the help of roots. As far as she knows, no one has succeeded in making this happen in the laboratory. At some point the fungi stop growing, but no one knows why.



She is trying to discover the special interaction that occurs when the filaments meet a plant root. "Some vital exchange takes place," Hua said. "Until we find out what it is, we probably won't be able to grow mycorrhizae in the laboratory except on living plant roots."

She's been able to keep the fungi growing for almost two months on roots in petri dishes.

The suspended carrot roots Hua uses are not a new development. Since about 1984, scientists have known how to genetically engineer roots to grow without being attached to a parent plant.

Hua said self-sustaining roots are ideal for her research because she can grow them without bothering with soil or carrots. "I can focus on just the root and the fungus," she said. "This approach is much cleaner than growing plants in dirt, then sieving to rescue hyphae and spores. I don't have to contend with other microorganisms that live in dirt and could contaminate my experiments."

Marcia Wood (415) 559-6070

Issued: February 13, 1990

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## **MEETING OF PACA INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SET FOR MARCH 2 AND 3**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) Industry Advisory Committee will hold its fifth meeting on March 2 and 3 at the Four Seasons Resort, 4150 North MacArthur Boulevard, Irving, Texas, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day. The meeting is open to the public.

PACA promotes fair marketing practices for fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce. The committee includes representatives of fruit and vegetable growers, shippers, brokers, processors, wholesalers and retailers.

"The committee will continue its review of PACA and its administration at this meeting," said Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Any recommendations by the committee will be submitted to Congress and to the secretary of agriculture for their consideration, Haley said. The committee's final report will be submitted to the secretary, the House Committee on Agriculture, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry by May 1.

The committee is chaired by Charles R. Brader, director of AMS's fruit and vegetable division.

Notice of the meeting will be published in the Feb. 15 Federal Register. For additional information, contact the committee's executive secretary, John D. Flanagan, chief, PACA Branch, Rm. 2095-S, USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-2272.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## **BELTSVILLE SYMPOSIUM TO EYE EARTH FROM ABOVE**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—Agriculture will get an aerial perspective this spring at the 15th annual science symposium of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland. This year's symposium, May 16-18, will be co-sponsored with, and held at, the nearby Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt.

About two dozen U.S. and foreign scientists will present reports addressing this year's theme, "Remote Sensing for Agriculture," said Essex E. Finney, director of the Beltsville center. "Normally the symposium is held at Beltsville, but considering the theme, it was a natural to have it at Goddard," he said.

The Beltsville center is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. The Goddard Center is part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"ARS and NASA scientists cooperate in a considerable amount of research on remote sensing," Finney said. "The technology has an increasingly important role in revealing the conditions of crops, forests, soil and water over vast expanses."

In remote sensing, instruments aboard planes or satellites, or on the ground, measure light, heat or radio waves reflected or emitted from soil, water or plants. Scientists convert the data into photo images, graphs and other products. Then they try to draw conclusions about such things as

predicted crop yields, water quality, severity of drought and soil erosion and damage by crop and forest pests.

“Remote sensing has untapped potential,” Finney said, “to help farmers, agribusiness companies and government agencies in managing natural resources and business operations.”

He said advances in collecting and interpreting the data could, for example, reveal more about how oceans, clouds, air and land masses interact to form the weather patterns that make or break success on the farm. That would help scientists improve computer models to simulate how global warming could alter climate and weather patterns.

The symposium will be one of very few on the theme held since the early 1980’s, he said.

Symposium papers will be published in the scientific journal, “Remote Sensing of Environment.”

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

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## YEUTTER NAMES COTTON BOARD MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has appointed eight members and nine alternates to the Cotton Board, which administers a national cotton research and promotion program.

Named, by state, are:

Alabama—Hugh H. Summerville Jr., Aliceville; alternate, W. Homer Tate, Meridianville (reappointed);

California—Glen R. Stevens, Fresno (reappointed); alternate, William H. Crivelli, Dos Palos (reappointed);

Missouri—John D. Hux Jr., Sikeston (reappointed); alternate, Otto Bean Jr., Holcomb (reappointed);

New Mexico—D. Devaun Richins, Animas (reappointed); alternate, William E. Bonham, Roswell (reappointed);

Oklahoma—David S. Stratton, Clinton (reappointed); alternate, Doyle R. Loftiss, Dill City (reappointed);

South Carolina—Billy H. McCoy Jr., Oswego (reappointed); alternate C. Blain Player, Bishopville (reappointed);

Tennessee—Robert W. Griggs, Humboldt; alternate, James C. Bond, Denmark;



Texas—Keith A. Streety, Levelland; alternate, Wayne C. Huffaker, Tahoka; alternate, Roy D. McCallister, Slaton.

The appointees will serve for terms ending Dec. 31, 1992, except for Texas alternate Roy D. McCallister, appointed to complete the unexpired term of Keith A. Streety, who has been appointed a Texas member. McCallister will serve until Dec. 31, 1990.

The Cotton Board is composed of 20 producer-members and their alternates, plus one public member who serves without an alternate. Each cotton-producing state is represented on the board, with membership proportional to production. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.

Designed to advance the position of cotton in the marketplace, the research and promotion program is funded by assessments on producers and is carried out by Cotton Incorporated under contract with the Cotton Board.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **YEUTTER CREATES NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT POSITION AND APPOINTS OKLAHOMAN**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today created a new position to coordinate the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development efforts and appointed Walter (Walt) E. Hill to that post. Hill will become the assistant under secretary for small community and rural development and will report to Roland Vautour who is the under secretary.

“Walt's agricultural and farming background combined with his decade of experience as a state legislator make him well-suited for the newly created position of assistant under secretary. He will assist Under Secretary Roland Vautour in overseeing the president's rural development initiative as well as in coordinating departmental activities in support of economic development in rural America,” Yeutter said.

Since July 1989, Hill has been serving as the special assistant to the under secretary for small community rural development. Prior to coming to Washington he served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from District 61 which covered Beaver, Cimarron and Texas counties. He was elected in November 1978 and served for over 10 years on various



committees including agriculture, appropriations and budget, and government operations. Beginning in 1986 he also served as house minority leader.

“The key to development of our rural areas is the proper coordination of programs and policies between local, state and federal governments, and Walt’s vast experience will make him a valuable member of our USDA rural development team,” Yeutter said.

Hill has been manager and owner of a 2,000-acre irrigated farm in Beaver and Texas counties since 1973. From 1984 to 1989, he served as chairman of the board, Added Assets, Inc., an Oklahoma City real-estate firm. In earlier years he served as an agronomist for Wheatheart Land Development Co. in Perryton, Texas, where he supervised five farms—60,000 acres—located in Oklahoma, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Texas and Kansas. Hill served in the U.S. Army from 1967-70, finishing his tour as a company commanding officer of the U.S. Army Security Agency in Seoul, Korea.

Hill received a B.S. degree from Panhandle State University, Goodwell, Okla., in 1964. He obtained an M.S. degree in soil science from Oklahoma State University in 1966, then a doctorate of science in soil chemistry and plant nutrition from that same institution in 1971.

While serving in the state legislature, Hill was recognized as one of the top ten legislators in 1979, 1980 and 1983 by the Oklahoma Constitution and in 1987 and 1988 by the Oklahoma Observer. He has held various appointments on gubernatorial committees and commissions, as well as serving on the board of trustees of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics in 1985-88. He is member of the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.

Hill, born in September 1941 in Liberal, Kansas, is married and the Hills have a daughter and son. They reside in Turpin, Okla.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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**THIS WEEK’S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS  
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation:

**Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table**

White .....	40.0
Extra-light Amber .....	37.0
Light Amber .....	36.0
Amber .....	35.0
Nontable .....	33.0

The levels are unchanged from those announced April 20, 1989. Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST  
John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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**NEW ORANGE HYBRID SURVIVES FLORIDA’S LATEST  
FREEZE**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15—Trees of a new orange hybrid released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January 1989 proved their cold hardiness during the recent Florida freeze.

“Ambersweet came through with flying colors,” said C. Jack Hearn, a plant geneticist with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service who developed the new hybrid. “For one thing, most of the fruit had already been harvested when the Dec. 24 freeze hit.”

That’s one of the main advantages of Hearn’s new variety, which is ideal for both fresh and processing markets. Ambersweet ripens by mid-

October and can be harvested through December. It's usually in December or later that cold weather threatens Florida citrus.

“We’ve checked our Ambersweet trees, and those protected with heat or irrigation didn’t lose their foliage. Unprotected trees lost leaves but had no twig damage,” Hearn said.

Twig damage, he said, would result in loss of fruit in both the 1989-90 and 1990-91 seasons.

The Florida Agricultural Statistics Service reported that citrus fruit in all Florida production areas suffered damage during the freeze that cost the state about \$600 million in agriculture losses.

Hardest hit were the Valencias, a late variety that ripens in April and May. Christmas Eve temperatures dropped to 18 degrees F, damaging the immature Valencia fruit, killing trees and wiping out entire groves in some cases.

Hearn, who works at the ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory in Orlando, is growing Ambersweet at several test plots in cooperation with local growers.

Florida citrus growers started calling Hearn a day or two after the freeze began to ask how Ambersweet fared. With the loss of all their trees, many growers will have to start over. They want to start over with Ambersweet. About 300 Florida nurseries stock Ambersweet.

It took Hearn 26 years to breed, nurture and test Ambersweet. “It’s well worth the time and effort,” he said. “This freeze was devastating, but it proved we now have a cold-hardy citrus variety suited for both fresh and processing markets.”

In addition to being cold hardy and ripening early, Ambersweet also:  
—doesn’t require mixing with other orange juices to meet Federal color standards for Grade A juice and can be mixed with other orange juices to bring their color up to standard. This would reduce processors’ reliance on imported juice.

—keeps on the tree well, allowing a long period of marketing for growers.

—holds up well after harvest, retaining freshness with little deterioration.

Doris Sanchez (301) 344-2767

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